

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. I would estimate that 15 per cent of the population in urban areas had radio receivers capable of receiving foreign broadcasts. Probably only 1 out of 1,000 families in rural areas owned radios.
2. Perhaps 70 per cent of the people who owned radios listened to Western broadcasts daily and possibly 20 per cent listened intermittently. I cannot estimate the percentage of families which listened to a particular Western broadcast. I preferred Western radio broadcasts in the following order: Voice of America, BBC, Radio Paris, Radio Free Europe, Madrid, Ankara.
3. The Athens and Vatican radio stations were very seldom listened to in Rumania. VOA was highly respected, being considered an organ of the United States Government. BBC was second choice to VOA. Radio Paris was listened to with interest. Radio Free Europe was not very well known. Radio Madrid was liked for its violent anti-Communist propaganda, but was not fully trusted because it was known in Rumania that Iron Guard elements were within the administration.
4. Until March 1952, no specific law had been passed in Rumania forbidding listening to foreign broadcasts. However, anyone caught listening to a Western broadcast was automatically placed on a suspect list and considered politically unreliable.
5. In 1951 there were five types of radio receivers available on the market. I recall the names of two of them:
 - a. "Partisan", a Soviet-made radio equipped with short wave;

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "H")

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- b. "Popular", a Rumanian-built radio without short wave.
6. I cannot recall the prices, but do recall that the stores requested proof of a prospective buyer's employment before selling a radio set.
7. There were four privately-owned radio repair shops in the city of Stalin. At times I was able to obtain Philips tubes from one of these shops. New Soviet tubes were also available in the repair shops and were sometimes adjusted to fit the individual radio sets.

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